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# Uzbek Uzhimprom plans to start building \$ 230 million worth tire plant

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Uzbekistan,  
Tashkent, Feb. 18 /

Trend D.Azizov /

Uzhimprom State  
Joint Stock  
Company plans to  
start construction  
of the tire plant in  
Angren (Tashkent  
region) with annual  
capacity of three  
million tires in the  
first half of 2013, a  
source in the  
government circles  
told Trend on  
Monday.

As previously  
reported, the  
original design  
capacity was  
estimated to be 1.5  
million tires,  
200,000 agricultural  
tires and 100,000  
linear meters of  
conveyor belts for  
cleaning equipment  
per year.

Later, the  
government  
decided to modify  
the initial feasibility  
study and double  
the production  
capacity - up to  
three million tires a  
year to improve the  
profitability of the  
project.

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According to the modified feasibility study, the plant will cost \$ 230 million, against the previously projected \$ 155 million.

Project will be financed by a loan from the Chinese Eximbank, equity of Uzhimprom and the loan of the Reconstruction and Development Fund of Uzbekistan.

According to the source, the present feasibility study, modified with consideration of increased production capacity, is under consideration of the government.

According to him, it is planned to sign founding documents to establish a joint venture for construction of a plant in early 2013, and start financing and implementation of the project in the first half of the year.

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In September 2011, Chinese CITIC Ltd signed a contract with the Uzhimprom SJC for design and turnkey supply of equipment for construction of the plant.

As part of the updated project, the parties plan to establish a joint venture, within which the CITIC will create a consortium with one of the largest tire manufacturers in Asia, part of the global supply chain for the American automobile General Motors, Chinese Linlong Rubber Co. In June 2012, Chinese Linlong Rubber Co and Uzhimprom SJC signed a memorandum of cooperation, involving a Chinese company in a joint venture for construction of a plant.

The Uzbek side of the enterprise, along with Uzhimprom

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SJC, will include the structures of Uzbekneftegaz National Holding Company (NHC) and Uzavtoprom Joint Stock Company (JSC).

Construction of a new facility is aimed at meeting the needs of GM Uzbekistan CJSC JV (Asaka, Andijan region) and Samarkand Automobile Factory. Its commissioning is scheduled for the end of 2016.

The plant will be located on the premises of the liquidated Rezinotekhnika JSC.

Before the collapse of the USSR, Rezinotekhnika was the largest producer of rubber products in Uzbekistan. The design capacity of the enterprise was 120,000 tires for cars and trailers (profile 41/21), nine million pairs of special rubber

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shoes, 600,000  
square meters of  
rubberized fabric  
and one thousand  
metric tons of  
rubber per year.

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